Dhuwal language

Dhuwal (also **Dual**, **Duala**) is one of the Yolŋu languages spoken by Aboriginal Australians in the Northern Territory, Australia. Although all Yolŋu languages are mutually intelligible to some extent, Dhuwal represents a distinct dialect continuum of eight separate varieties.

Dhuwal	
Dhay'yi	
Native to	Australia
Region	Northern Territory
Ethnicity	Daii, Dhuwal, Dhuwala, Makarrwanhalmirr
Native speakers	5,171 (2016 census)[1]
Language family	Pama–Nyungan ▪ Yolŋu languages ▪ Southern (Dhuwal) ▪ **Dhuwal**
Standard forms	Dhuwaya
Dialects	Gupapuyngu Gumatj Djambarrpuyngu Djapu Liyagalawumirr Guyamirlili Dhalwangu [Dhay'yi] Djarrwark [Dhay'yi]
Signed forms	Yolŋu Sign Language
Official status	
Official language in	Northern Territory (as lingua franca for aborigines)[2]
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Variously: dwu – Dhuwal djr – Djambarrpuyngu gnn – Gumatj guf – Gupapuyngu dax – Dayi (Dhay'yi) dwy – Dhuwaya

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Dialects

According to linguist Robert M. W. Dixon,

- Dialects of the Yirritja moiety are (a) **Gupapuyngu** and **Gumatj**;
- Dialects of the Dhuwa moiety are (b) **Djambarrpuyngu**, **Djapu**, **Liyagalawumirr**, and **Guyamirlili** (Gwijamil).
- In addition, it would appear that the **Dhay'yi** (**Dayi**) dialects, (a) **Dhalwangu** and (b) **Djarrwark**, are part of the same language.[6]

Ethnologue divides Dhuwal into four languages, plus Dayi and the contact variety Dhuwaya (numbers are from the 2006 census.):

- Dhuwal proper, Datiwuy, Dhuwaya, Liyagawumirr, Marrangu, and Djapu: 600 speakers
- Djampbarrpuyŋu, 2,760 speakers
- Gumatj, 240 speakers
- Gupapuyngu, 330 speakers
- Dhay'yi (Dayi) and Dhalwangu, 170 speakers

Dhuwaya is a stigmatised contact variant used by the younger generation in informal contexts, and is the form taught in schools, having replaced Gumatj ca. 1990.

Sounds

Consonants[7]

Glottolog	dhuw1248 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/dhuw1248) Dhuwal-Dhuwala[3] dayi1244 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/dayi1244) Dayi[4]
AIATSIS[5]	N198 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/N198) Dhuwa N199 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/N199) Dhuwa N118 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/N118) Dhay'y

	Bilabial	Lamino-dental	Apico-alveolar	Retroflex	Lamino-palatal	Velar	Glottal
Fortis	p	t̪	t	ʈ	c	k	ʔ
Lenis	b	d̪	d	ɖ	ɟ	g	
Nasal	m	n̪	n	ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	
Tap			ɾ				
Glide				ɻ	j	w	
Lateral			l	ɭ			

Vowels[7][8]

	Front	Central	Back
High	i, iː		u, uː
Low		a, aː	

Vowel length is contrastive in first syllable only.

Orthography

Probably every Australian language with speakers remaining has had an orthography developed for it, in each case in the Latin script. Sounds not found in English are usually represented by digraphs, or more rarely by diacritics, such as underlines, or extra symbols, sometimes borrowed from the International Phonetic Alphabet. Some examples are shown in the following table.

Language	Example	Translation	Type
Pitjantjatjara dialect of the Western Desert language	pa**ɳ**a	'earth, dirt, ground; land'	diacritic (underline) indicates the retroflex nasal ([ɳ])
Wajarri	**nh**a**nh**a	'this, this one'	digraph indicating the dental nasal ([n̪])
Yolŋu languages	yol**ŋ**u	'**ŋ**' represents the velar nasal (borrowed from the International Phonetic Alphabet)	

References

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5. N198 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/N198) Dhuwal at the Australian Indigenous Languages Database, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (see the info box for additional links)
6. Dixon, Robert M. W. (2002). *Australian Languages: Their Nature and Development* (https://books.google.com/books?id=MSqIBNJtG0AC). Cambridge University Press. p. xxxvi. ISBN 978-0-521-47378-1.
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